

March 14, 2013

Montana Health Care Programs Notice

Pharmacy

Vaccine Administration by Pharmacists for Adolescents Age 12–18 Years

Later this year, Montana Medicaid will use the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program for influenza vaccines administered in a pharmacy to Medicaid-eligible children 12–18 years of age. Because VFC provides vaccines to this population free of charge, the Department will not reimburse the ingredient cost of the vaccine, but will continue paying the dispensing fee.

VFC is a federally funded entitlement program that provides vaccines at no cost to children 0–18 years of age who are Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, Alaskan Native, or uninsured.

If pharmacies wish to offer the influenza vaccine to VFC-eligible children 12 years and older, they must enroll in the VFC Program and use VFC vaccines. The other option is to refer these patients to a nearby VFC provider or the local health department.

The Montana Immunization Program implements the VFC Program within the state. To become a VFC provider, a pharmacy must:

- Start enrollment by March 29, 2013.
- Attend a training session and host an enrollment site visit from the Immunization Program.
- Sign annually, and adhere to the provisions of a VFC Provider Site Contract.
- Follow the vaccine storage, handling, and accountability requirements set forth in the State Vaccine Management Plan.
- Order and manage VFC vaccines through the online State immunization registry.

VFC enrollment for pharmacies ends on March 29, 2013, with the goal of having participating pharmacies fully enrolled by June 2013, when orders for influenza vaccine are due. The training and enrollment site visit must be completed before receiving VFC influenza vaccine shipments.

If you already know you would like to enroll, please contact the Immunization Program at (406) 444-5580 or at hhsiz@mt.gov. We will include your pharmacy on the enrollment roster and contact you with enrollment materials and instructions when the process begins in March.

For additional information, a pharmacy-specific presentation is available on the website at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/immunization/vaccinesforchildren.shtml>.

Contact Information

If you have questions regarding this provider notice, contact Dave Campana (406) 444-5951 (Medicaid) or Lori Hutchinson (406) 444-0277 (VFC).

For claims questions or additional information, contact Provider Relations at 1-800-624-3958 (toll-free, in/out of state) or (406) 442-1837 (Helena) or via e-mail at MTPRHelpdesk@xerox.com.

Visit the Provider Information website at <http://medicaidprovider.hhs.mt.gov>.